

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action mailed on September 17, 2007. This response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Markbreit (WO 01/29353).

Claims 8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Markbreit in view of Hautau (EP 1061215).

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Markbreit in view of Hautau and in further view of Sandrock (US 4282769).

Claims 1-8, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hautau (EP 1061215).

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections. In the rejection of claim 8, Examiner cites an “intermediate terminus” of Hautau. It is respectfully submitted that the “intermediate terminus” of Hautau is not really a terminus and has different structure than the intermediate terminus of the instant invention.

For the purposes of expediting allowance, claims 1-6 have been cancelled and claim 7 has been amended to better recite this structural difference, namely, that the channel of the instant invention comprises a continuously straight channel and the

terminuses extend therefrom. This structure is clearly not found or taught in any of the cited art, whether considered singly or in combination. Claim 8 has been cancelled as being extraneous due to the amendment of claim 7.

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

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